

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A zinc pyrithione complex compound represented by the formula (I):

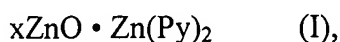


wherein x denotes a positive number satisfying the equation: $0 < x \leq 1$, and

Py represents 2-pyridylthio-N-oxide.

22. (New) The zinc pyrithione complex compound according to claim 21, wherein x is 1/3.

23. (New) A process for producing a zinc pyrithione complex compound represented by the formula (I):



wherein x denotes a positive number satisfying the equation: $0 < x \leq 1$, and

Py represents 2-pyridylthio-N-oxide,

said process comprising:

adding 1/2 to 2 equivalent mol of an aqueous solution of a water-soluble zinc salt and 3/4 to 3 equivalent mol of an aqueous alkali hydroxide solution to an aqueous alkali pyrithione solution, and

reacting the mixture at a pH of 9 to 12 to collect precipitates of the zinc pyrithione complex compound represented by the formula (I).

24. (New) The process according to claim 23, wherein x is 1/3.

25. (New) The process according to claim 23 or claim 24, wherein the zinc pyrithione complex compound contains zinc oxide or a mixture of zinc oxide and zinc pyrithione as a byproduct, and the exothermic peak temperature in thermal analysis (DTA) is 322 to 335°C.

26. (New) An antidandruff agent comprising one or more of the zinc pyrithione complex compounds according to claim 21 or claim 22.

27. (New) A hair-care product comprising the antidandruff agent according to claim 26.
28. (New) A hair-care product comprising the antidandruff agent according to claim 26 and zinc oxide.
29. (New) An underwater antifouling agent comprising one or more of the zinc pyrithione complex compounds according to claim 21 or claim 22.
30. (New) An underwater antifouling agent comprising:
a binder,
one or more of the zinc pyrithione complex compounds according to claim 21 or claim 22,
and
an inorganic copper compound and/or an inorganic zinc compound.
31. (New) The underwater antifouling agent according to claim 30, wherein
the binder is an acrylic resin,
the inorganic copper compound is at least one type selected from the group consisting of copper (I) oxide, copper (II) oxide and copper thiocyanate, and
the inorganic zinc compound is zinc oxide.
32. (New) A rot proofing/mildew proofing agent or antibacterial/antifungal agent comprising one or more of the zinc pyrithione complex compounds according to claim 21 or claim 22 as effective components.
33. (New) An aqueous product comprising the zinc pyrithione complex compound according to claim 22 and a 2-isothiazolone type preservative.
34. (New) An aqueous product comprising a mixture of the zinc pyrithione compound according to claim 22 and zinc oxide, and a 2-isothiazolone type preservative.